

uttar pradesh

1 shot dead, 10 burnt alive over property dispute

HT Correspondent/Rajesh, Hindustan Times
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Ten persons including five children were charred to death in Digahi village located in Maharajganj district (350 km north of Lucknow) on Friday when agitated over the murder of *gram pradhan* (village head) his supporters set ablaze the house of the accused. The *gram pradhan* of Digahi village, Deenanath Singh was shot dead at around 9:30 am while he was returning home after attending a panchayat meeting. The attackers also cut the neck of the *pradhan* to ensure that he was dead.

The supporters of the *gram pradhan* retaliated with torching the house of the attackers. Five children, three women and two men were burnt alive as the attackers did not allow them to escape from the blaze. The incident of attack on the *gram pradhan* and counter attack by his supporters continued for around five hours but the district police did not turn up.

Special DG (Law and Order), Brij Lal said that dispute over a piece of land was the reason for the killing. The *gram pradhan* had purchased a piece of land from a woman that was under the possession of Ayodhya Dubey. "Both Singh and Dubey filed petition in the district court, sub divisional magistrate court and chakbandi department court. Later the district administration attached the disputed land", he said.

"On March 6 the in-charge of Tuthibari police station had called the Singh and Dubey for compromise, but in vain. Four persons including Ayodhya Dubey, Dwarika Dubey, Krishna Kumar Dubey and Dharendra Dubey have been charged with killing the *gram pradhan* Deenanath Singh", he said.

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